



Kansas Association of Counties Legislative Update

March 4, 2022

Welcome to the 2022 Kansas Legislative Session. This is the second year of the biennium, so bills and resolutions from the 2021 Session carry over to the 2022 Session. In addition, new bills may be introduced, continuing with the numbering from last session.

For a review of common legislative terms, please refer to the [Common Legislative Terms](#) list on KAC's website or bookmark this link: <https://www.kansascounties.org/legislative/common-legislative-terms/view>

Summaries of all legislation passed during the 2021 session or special session can be found at www.kslegresearch.org under the Publications tab by searching the 2021 Summary of Legislation and 2021 Legislative Highlights. There is a summary of the 2021 Special Session under the publications tab. You can also find helpful resources in the Legislative Briefing Book. Topics of interest covered in the 2020 Briefing Book include Elections and Ethics, Redistricting, State and Local Government, Taxation and Transportation, among others.

What Happened This Week

[HB 2531](#), was worked on Monday, February 21 in the House Agriculture committee. It was blessed (sent to an exempt committee so that it is not subject to legislative deadlines) after being passed over on the calendar on Wednesday prior to turnaround. It was returned to committee, where further amendments were added to clarify that the County Commission (in County unit counties) or the township trustees (in township road counties) could make the right of way determination. We may see additional discussion on the floor for this bill, as there are still concerns among some members of the House.

The Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee worked [SB 394](#) a bill requiring advance ballots be received by 7PM on election day on Thursday, March 3. The bill was amended, adding the ability to send out ballots three days earlier, changing the deadline to register to vote (cutting down the number of days prior to an election in which you can register) and limiting the number of drop boxes that can be placed in a county (one per 30,000 in population). The bill was then placed in HB 2056 in a "Gut and Go", which is a process by which the language of a bill is stripped out in its entirety and replaced with the language of another bill. This allows this bill to be sent to the floor of the Senate, and then, rather than going through the committee hearing process on the House side, it can advance to a conference committee, meaning these provisions will never get a debate before a House Committee or the full House with an opportunity to amend the bill. If a conference committee report does come before the House, the members of the House can only vote yes or no, with no option to amend the bill further. It should be noted that the portion of the bill that eliminates the mailing grace period for ballots was killed in the House.

The House Local Government Committee heard [HB 2676](#), which would allow for a code inspection fund to be set up by local governments. This bill appeared to be non-controversial. It will not be eligible for

the consent calendar, however, as a technical amendment is needed on the bill and bills that have been amended cannot appear on the consent calendar.

The Senate Ethics and Transparency Committee took final action on [SB 386](#), which deals with KORA fees. The committee struck language that would have limited staff time to “the lowest hourly rate” as well as eliminating language that would have prevented charging fees for records searches that did not yield records. Amendments were also added to prohibit charging copying fees for pages that were either completely blank or entirely redacted. This bill will now head to the House floor.

While [SB 466](#), which will establish certain prohibitions on public accommodations related to vaccine status, as well as prohibiting governing bodies of any city or county, public officials of any city or county and local health officers from requiring that a person wear a face mask based on an epidemic or other public health reason, has not been heard, there was an informational hearing on the same topic. [SB 541](#), which deals with the same subject matter, as well as the subject matter covered in [SB 40 of 2021](#). See below for more information on SB 541.

What’s Coming Next Week

[SB 542](#) is a major bill that should be on everyone’s radar. This bill will be heard at 9:30 on March 9 in the Senate Assessment and Taxation committee. It is a followup to [2021 SB 13](#). It adds reporting requirements to SB 13. In addition to that, allows any individual to file a complaint with BOTa if they believe that a government subdivision did not comply with the requirements of this law. County elected officials should let their opinions be known on this legislation.

SB 541, as discussed above, will be heard in the Senate Judiciary committee on March 7 at 10:30. This bill will have a significant impact on local health officers and county commissions. In a similar vein, [SB 489](#) will be heard in the Senate Public Health and Welfare committee on March 8 at 8:30. Local health officers should plan to tune into this hearing.

[SB 532](#) is another elections bill that is problematic. It would allow candidates in nonpartisan elections to include their party, which would make those elections partisan. This bill will be heard in Senate Federal and State Affairs at 10:30 on March 9.

[SB 505](#) is a bill that counties, particularly those that are zoned, should be watching as well. This bill would prohibit enactment or enforcement of zoning regulations to regulate businesses that operate out of a home. This bill is broadly written, to the point that any work done at a home, whether it be automotive repair, childcare, office type work, or another type of work, could not be regulated based on zoning. The bill exempts homeowners associations from this limitation.

Additional bills could be added to the calendar to be worked or as blessed bills are re-referred to their original committees. It is likely that bills that are re-referred could have additional amendments added in committee to win support on the floor. Keep an eye on social media for these updates as bills start to move around after Turnaround. If you have not already done so, [SUBSCRIBE](#) to KAC legislative alerts to stay up to date on what is going on.

Additional Resources

For daily information on things happening in the Legislature, follow [@KansasCounties](#) and [@JayHallKS](#) on Twitter.

You can find information on the Kansas Legislature, such as daily calendars, audio links, and bill text at www.kslegislature.org.

You can watch or listen to committee proceedings at: www.sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00287/Harmony/en/View/Calendar/ or by following the Kansas Legislature on YouTube.

2022 Legislative deadlines can be found at:

http://kslegislature.org/li/documents/2022_calendar_deadline.pdf